

Chapter Four

Definitions

Chapter Overview

Introduction The definitions explain key terms to aid providers in understanding the services described in this manual.

In This Chapter This chapter defines the following topics:

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Key Term Definitions

Advanced Life Support (ALS)

Advanced Life Support services include Basic Life Support services plus invasive procedures and techniques provided by certified emergency medical technicians – defibrillation (EMT-D), certified emergency medical technicians – intermediate (EMT-I), and/or certified emergency medical technicians – paramedic (EMT-P).

These services include, but are not limited to:

- advanced airway management
- initiating, administering, and monitoring IV fluids
- defibrillation
- cardioversion
- chest decompression
- medication administration through IV lines
- providing anti-shock therapy
- relieving pneumothorax
- administering CPR
- venous blood draws
- EKG
- pacing nebulizer
- other life support procedures or service

Appropriate Facility

An appropriate facility is a facility with equipment, personnel, and the capability to provide services necessary to support required medical care. An institution is not considered an appropriate facility if there is no bed available.

Base Area

The base area is the county in which the ambulance provider's site address is located.

Outside Base Area

Outside base area is beyond the county line in which the ambulance provider's site address is located.

Basic Life Support (BLS)

Basic life support services are non-invasive procedures and techniques provided by certified Emergency Medical Technicians.

These services include, but are not limited to:

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| • delivery of babies | • restraints for combative recipients |
| • CPR | • use of immobilizers |
| • splinting | • use of gauze pads/bandages |
| • cardiopulmonary resuscitation | • O ₂ administration |
| • control of hemorrhage | • treatment of injuries as a result of exposure to heat/cold |

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Key Term Definitions, continued

Bed Confined The inability to get up from bed without assistance, ambulate and sit in a chair, including a wheelchair.

Condition Codes Condition codes describe the reason for ambulance transportation. Code numbers ranging from 81 through 98 are used in form locators 24 through 30 on the UB-92 claim form. Up to seven (7) condition codes may be used on one claim. Information from the ambulance call report determines which condition code(s) is used. See Chapter Seven for a detailed description.

Condition codes are listed in the following categories:

Category	Description	Number Range
Weather, traffic, circumstances	conditions that make transportation necessary	81 – 89
Situations	recipient's presenting situation when ambulance provider arrives	90 -95
Qualifying criteria	medical services rendered to the recipient during transport	96 - 98

Emergency Transport Emergency transport is defined as medically necessary transportation for the recipient to receive immediate and prompt medical services arising in a situation such as accident, acute illness, or injury.

Medical Necessity Medical necessity is when the recipient's condition requires ambulance transportation and any other means of transportation would endanger the recipient's health or life. Medicaid covers ambulance services only if they are furnished to a recipient whose medical condition is such that other means of transportation would be contraindicated.

Medicaid staff or its agents make final determination of medical necessity for Medicaid coverage and reimbursement. If it is determined that documentation is insufficient to warrant ambulance transportation, the claim will be denied. Documentation is provided by condition codes. Call reports must support the medical necessity and the condition codes. Do not submit the call report with the claim unless requested. See "Documentation Requirements and Record Retention" on page 5-8.

Medical Services Medical services are diagnostic and/or treatment services that cannot be provided at the time in which it is needed in the recipient's place of residence or medical facility where the recipient is an inpatient.

Nearest Facility The nearest institution or medical facility in the service area surrounding the recipient's residence where the resident is normally expected to go for treatment.

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Key Term Definitions, continued

Non-emergency Medically Necessary Transport	This is medically necessary ground transportation for a recipient to receive non-emergency medical services that cannot be provided at the time that it is needed, in the place of residence or medical facility where the recipient resides as an inpatient/resident. The recipient must be bed-confined and his/her condition is such that a stretcher is the only safe mode of transportation.
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Examples (not all inclusive):

- the recipient has muscular dystrophy
 - the recipient is ventilator dependent
 - the recipient has a broken hip
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One-way Trip	A one-way trip is transportation from point of pickup to destination. Delivery of the recipient at the destination discharges the ambulance service's responsibility. The ambulance service is then available to transport other patients.
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Prior Approval	Prior approval is authorization granted by the Department of Medical Assistance's fiscal agent to a provider to transport a recipient either by ground or air transportation for state to state placement.
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Recipient's Residence	The recipient's residence is the place where the recipient makes a home and dwells permanently, or resides for an extended period of time. This includes private home, adult care home, or nursing facility.
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Return (back) Transport	Return, or back, transport is non-emergency transportation from a facility providing highly specialized care to another facility, which provides a lower level of services.
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Back transport generally applies to transportation of a recipient who has been stabilized and no longer requires highly specialized care.

Examples of facilities offering total care:

- statewide trauma centers
 - regional centers designed to provide critical care
 - centers providing neonatal intensive care
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Round-Trip	A round-trip is non-emergency transportation by ambulance from point of pickup to destination and return to point of pickup.
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